

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure. The new Abstract of the Disclosure is also set forth on a separate sheet attached at the end of this Amendment.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A unit for applying opening devices to packages of pourable food products having a rupturable portion includes a conveyor for feeding the packages successively along a given path; and a gripping device for receiving the opening devices at a pickup station, and which move cyclically between the pickup station and an application station interfacing with the path and where the opening devices are applied to respective packages; the trajectory of the gripping device from the application station to the pickup station is distinct from the path of the packages; and the unit also includes a pressure device generating a contact pressure between the packages and the opening devices as of the application station and along at least a portion of the path of the packages.

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